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Approved For Release 2002/06/14 : CIA RDP71B00297R000200020006-3  
IDEALIST/TACKLE

25X1A

[redacted] 0347-68  
copy 6 of 12

1 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution  
SUBJECT : Resume of Mission C168C

25X1C 1. General: Mission C168C was alerted on 18 October  
1968. This was a round robin mission flown out of [redacted]  
[redacted] designed to remain 20 miles off-shore. Launch and  
recovery were made on 20 October 1968. Pilot was Major  
[redacted] This was his first operational  
mission.

25X1C

25X1C

Preplanned Mission Data

Distance

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Time to landing

Take off fuel

1020 gals

Fuel reserve at Hi Cone 215 gals

Targets: This mission was designed for use of the  
"H" Camera Configuration to obtain photo coverage of 33  
COMIREX targets and [redacted] Route for  
this sortie was planned to obtain photo coverage from approx-  
imately 60 NM east of Hong Kong along the coast of China to  
a point southeast of Shanghai.

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2. Actual Mission Data: Take-off was at [redacted] and  
landing at [redacted] hours.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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CONTROL CHANNELS

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a. Target Coverage:

(1) Of the 33 programmed COMIREX targets, none were covered due to pilot's missetting of the camera angle.

(2) There were three bonus COMIREX targets covered.

(3) Thirty-one bonus non-COMIREX targets were also photographed.

b. Weather: The weather was as forecast. Category I (0 to 1/8 cloud cover) was over the China Mainland and coastal area. All flight lines were clear with the exception of the last which was Category III (3/8 to 4/8 cloud cover).

3. Air Defense Reaction (Chicom):

a. Radar Tracking: Chicom tracking was continuous from 0136Z until 0454Z for a total time of [redacted] hours.

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b. Fighter Reaction: Twice during the mission the pilot reported seeing MIG contrails to the left and below his flight path and altitude. These contrail sightings occurred in the vicinity of Lung-tien and Nan Jih-Tao Airfields. (Both air strips are across from Taiwan). The four MIG aircraft never climbed above the contrail altitude ([redacted]).

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4. Electronic Warfare Systems Activity: No system activities were received during this mission.

5. Elint Analysis: The MC recorder failed, due to an internal malfunction shortly after take off. Consequently, there was no System VI analysis for this sortie.

6. Photo Analysis: Of the 34 targets photographed, 16 were considered good, nine were rated as fair and five were rated poor on photo interpretability due to obliquity, haze and/or clouds. Overall quality was good with 20 percent cloud cover.

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7. Maintenance: There were no aircraft discrepancies.

8. Communications: Radio, navigational aids and BW operation was satisfactory.

9. A critique for IDEALIST Mission C168C was held in the OSA Control Center on Tuesday, 29 October 1968 at 1315L. Representatives of OSA, OSI and OEL were present. As a result of this critique, several items requiring action were surfaced, as listed below:

a. To preclude improper camera angle settings a program of reindoctrination must be instituted. All Field Commanders are reemphasizing proper camera setting methods and review of "H" camera procedures for obtaining optimum target coverage.

b. The System XXI recorder stopped at 0133Z and did not resume until 0220Z. [redacted] indicated pilot 25X1A received unusual radio noise and secured system as possible cause. After pilot determined system was not cause of noise he turned it back on.

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[redacted]  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Chief, IDEALIST Division, OSA

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VIA [redacted]

CONTROL SYSTEM

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CONTROL CHANNELS